

LAKEWOOD - To recognize and encourage the artistic abilities and creative talent of high school students in the 39th Congressional District, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez hosted 2007 Annual 39th Congressional District Arts Competition Reception and Award Ceremony on Saturday, April 28th at the Centre at Sycamore Plaza in Lakewood.

This year, Congresswoman Sánchez received a large number of submissions from throughout her district, which includes Lakewood, Cerritos, Whittier, Lynwood, Hawaiian Gardens, Artesia, La Mirada, Long Beach and South Gate. All of the submissions were displayed at the reception for public view in recognition of the student's talent and hard work.

"I love this competition because each year it shows me just how talented and creative our students are," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "Their gifts deserve to be recognized and nurtured."

The event concluded with the recognition of the top four winners including the First Place winner, Daniel Santana. Daniel, a student at Lynwood High School, won with his drawing titled "American History Lesson Zero." Daniel was invited to attend the National Congressional Arts Competition Reception in Washington, DC, this summer where his piece will be dedicated and displayed in the U.S. Capitol Building.

A panel of local art experts selected the winning pieces. The remaining winners will have their works displayed in the Congressional Offices of Congresswoman Sánchez. They are as follows:

Second Place: Aaron Mendoza, Mayfair H.S., Drawing: "Courage"

Third Place (tie): Jenny Ha, Valley Christian H.S., Painting: "Painting"

Third Place (tie): Madison Viestra, Artesia H.S., Photography: "Self-Portrait"